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Social Wilson Library Bulletin Abzug, Bella

Letters

CIA: It wasn't us

I would like to comment on the item which appears on p.217 of Wilson Library Bulletin, November 1976, under the heading of "Snooper Alert," and the letter from Chairwoman Bella S. Abzug of the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, which appears on p.228 of the same issue. Both refer to an alleged incident in which an individual said to be carrying "CIA credentials" requested information on a patron's book use at a university library.

Abzug referred this incident to the Central Intelligence Agency in September. A letter was sent in reply on October 8th from the Director of Central Intelligence to [her] stating that "a careful check of appropriate Central Intelligence Agency offices failed to reveal any information indicating that an agency representative visited the library in question. . . . Nor is there any indication that such a visit would have been made to any other American library. It is clear that this individual was not an employee of this agency. Such impersonation of a federal officer is a criminal offense. Accordingly, we are referring your letter to the Department of Justice for action as they deem necessary."

There is no indication that this agency has ever been involved in the type of incident described.

Andrew T. Falkiewicz Assistant to the Director of Central Intelligence Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DÇ 20505

[We have been informed that the librarian at the university in question sticks to his story.—Ed.]